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AT the Court at St. *James's* the 16th Day of *March*, 1717.

PRESENT,

The King's moſt Excellent Majeſty in Council.

His Majeſty in Council was this Day pleaſed to declare the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Sunderland Lord Preſident of the Privy Council, and his Lordſhip thereupon took his Place at the Board accordingly.

This Day the Right Honourable James Craggs, Jun. Eſq; was, by His Majeſty's Command, ſworn of His Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council, as likewiſe one of His Majeſty's Principal Secretaries of State, and took his Place at the Board accordingly.

Moſcow, Feb. 17. On the 11th Inſtant the Czar's eldeſt Son Prince Alexander Petrowitz, attended by the Sieur Tolſtoy, arrived here from his Travels. He waited that Night upon the Czar, with whom he had a long Conference. The next Day a great Council was held, and his Czariſh Majeſty having reſolved to exert in a very ſolemn manner, his Juſtice upon the ſaid Prince for his Diſobedience and Breach of the Laws of this Empire, who had incurred the Penalty of High Treaſon, by travelling into Foreign Parts without his Licence, Orders were given for the neceſſary Preparations to be made for that Purpoſe. Accordingly the 14th before Break of Day, the Regiments of Guards and the Garriſon of this Place being under Arms, were poſted round the Caſtle, ſo as to ſecure all the Gates and Avenues; and Orders were ſent at the ſame Time to all his Majeſty's Miniſters, Boyars and Counſellours, to repair to the Great Hall in the Caſtle, and to the Clergy to aſſemble in the Cathedral. Then the great Bell was tolled, and the Prince was brought in as a Priſoner without his Sword; and being carryed into the Czar's Preſence, who was ſtanding in the Hall in the midſt of the Great Men of his Kingdom, preſented a Writing to his Majeſty, containing a Confeſſion of his Crime, and in Tears fell at his Majeſty's Feet. The Czar gave the Paper to Baron Schafirof, his Vice Chancellour, and afterwards raiſing his unhappy Son from the Ground demanded of him what was his Deſire? The Prince implored his Mercy, and begged he would ſpare his Life: His Majeſty granted his Requeſt, but told him he had cut himſelf off from the Hopes of inheriting his Crown, that he muſt ſolemnly renounce the Succeſſion, and acknowledge the ſame under his Hand; which he anſwered he was ready to perform. The Czar then expoſtulated with him upon his Diſobedience, and asked him who were the Adviſers of his late Eſcape? Upon which the Prince drew near and whiſpered him, and they went together into an adjoining Room, where it is ſuppoſed he named the Perſons, which is the more probable becauſe ſoon after three Couriers were diſpatched ſeveral Ways, whoſe Errands are not yet publickly known. His Majeſty and the Prince being returned into the Hall, the Prince ſigned an Inſtrument, ſetting forth, that finding himſelf unqualified for Government, he therefore diſclaimed any Right of Succeſſion to the Crown. Then ſeveral Articles, containing a long Deduction of the Cauſes of his Majeſty's excluding his eldeſt Son from the Succeſſion were read aloud. This being done, the Miniſters, Boyars, Officers and others, who were preſent, ſwore upon the Goſpel and ſubſcribed an Oath, of which ſeveral printed Copies had been prepared, importing, that the Czar having by his Letters declared that he had excluded from the Crown the Czatowitz Alexander Petrowitz, and had appointed his Majeſty's ſecond Son the Prince Royal Peter Petrowitz to ſucceed him; they owned the Legality of this his Majeſty's Decree, acknowledged the ſaid Prince Peter Petrowitz to be the undoubted Succeſſor to the Crown, engaged to ſtand by him with their Lives againſt any that ſhould dare to oppoſe him, and never would, under any Pretence whatſoever adhere to Prince Alexander Petrowitz, or aſſiſt him in the Recovery of the ſaid Succeſſion. Then the Company repaired to the Cathedral, where the Czar in a long Speech ſet forth the Prince his Son's undutiful Behaviour and evil Conduct; after which the Clergy ſwore and ſubſcribed the Oath abovementioned; this being ended, the Company was diſmiſſed, and his Majeſty returned to his Apartment. The ſaid Oath has ſince been adminiſtred to all the publick Officers, and other Inhabitants of this Place, who were not preſent at the Solemnity, and Orders are ſent for doing the like all over the Ruſſian Empire, and in his Majeſty's Armies abroad. The Prince is kept under Confinement, and no body is admitted to him but the Heer Tolſtoy, and ſuch others as are appointed by the Czar. It is ſaid his Majeſty intends ſoon to return to Petersbourg, and after a ſhort Stay there to make a Progreſs to Aſtracan and Cazan.

Bruſſels, March 18. The Marquis de Prié, who in the Abſence of Prince Eugene of Savoy, our General Governour, is entruſted with the Government of the Auſtrian Netherlands, with the Character of Miniſter Plenipotentiary, has lately received from Vienna his Imperial and Catholick Majeſty's Eſtabliſhment of a Council for the Adminiſtration of publick Affairs, which in the Reign of the late King of Spain, Charles the Second, were under the Direction of three Councils called the Council of State, the Privy Council, and the Council of Finances or Treaſury. This new Council, which is to be ſtiled the Council of State, is to conſiſt of the General Governour, and in his Abſence the Miniſter Plenipotentiary; of ſix Counſellors of the Nobility, viz. the Marqueſs of Weſterloo, the Duke of Arſchot, the Prince de Ligne, the Duke d'Urſel, the Prince de Rubempré, and the Count de Maldegem; the three former are not obliged to conſtant Attendance, and have no Salary; the other are to attend every